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SERVICE DATE – JUNE 8, 2006

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 29X)

WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–IN FOREST COUNTY, WI

Decided: June 7, 2006

By decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) served on December 13, 2005, a 180-day period was authorized for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, acting through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (collectively, the State), to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL), for a 4.62-mile line of railroad, from milepost 235.84 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 249.38 on the old Shawano Sub), near Crandon, to the end of the track at milepost 231.22 on the Pembine Sub (formerly milepost 254.00 on the old Shawano Sub), in Forest County, WI. The negotiating period under the NITU is set to expire on June 11, 2006.

On May 26, 2006, the State filed a request to extend the NITU negotiating period for an additional 180 days. The State explains that additional time is needed to finalize negotiations. In a response filed on June 1, 2006, WCL states that it intends to negotiate with the State and does not object to the State's request to extend the negotiating period.

Where, as here, the carrier is willing to continue trail use negotiations, the NITU negotiating period may be extended.<sup>1</sup> An extension of the negotiating period will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking, consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d). Accordingly, the NITU negotiating period will be extended for an additional 180 days from June 11, 2006 (until December 8, 2006).

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The State's request to extend the NITU negotiating period is granted.
2. The negotiating period under the NITU is extended for 180 days, until December 8, 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> See Rail Abandonments—Supplemental Trails Act Procedures, 4 I.C.C.2d 152, 157-58 (1987).

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary